

7-19-2013

PLENARY SESSION: The State of Information Literacy Policy: A Global Priority

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Recommended Citation

Weiner, Sharon A., "PLENARY SESSION: The State of Information Literacy Policy: A Global Priority" (2013). *Libraries Faculty and Staff Presentations*. Paper 32.
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THE STATE OF INFORMATION LITERACY POLICY: A GLOBAL PRIORITY

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IAALD, 7/22/2013

Outline

W. Wayne Booker Chair in Information Literacy

The State of IL Policy: A Global Priority:

Developing a Common Understanding

What is Information Literacy (IL)?

What is Information Policy?

Information Policy and Global Challenges

International IL Policy

Taking Action: Addressing the Issues!

W. Wayne Booker Chair in IL

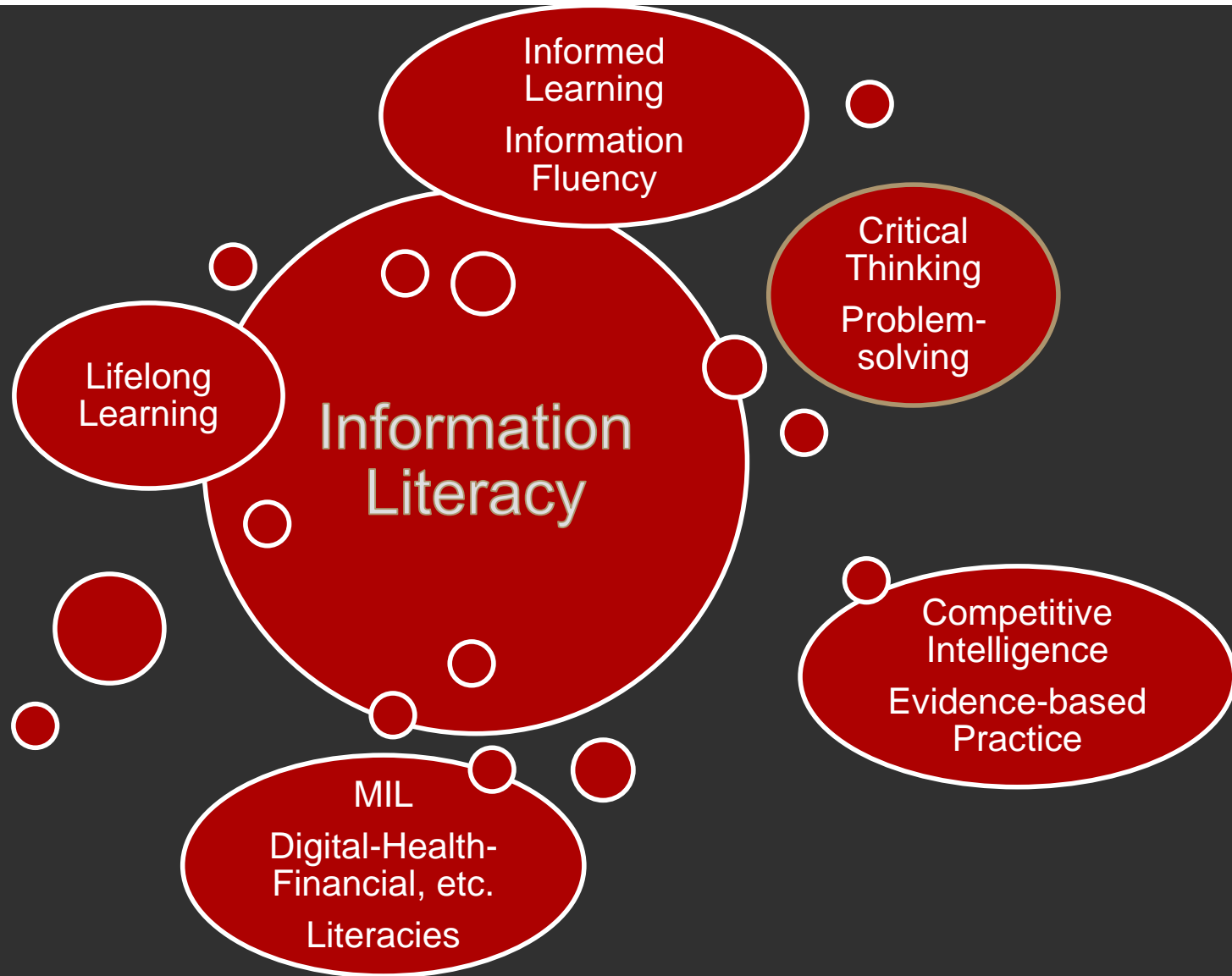
W. Wayne Booker

Opportunities and challenges...

- Advocacy for IL, outside of libraries and academia
- Research on IL, organizational and policy aspects, integration into teaching and curricula, IL outside libraries
- IL Handbook Series (Purdue University Press)
- International collaborations
- Workforce and everyday life
- Mentoring, consulting, writing, program development and assessment

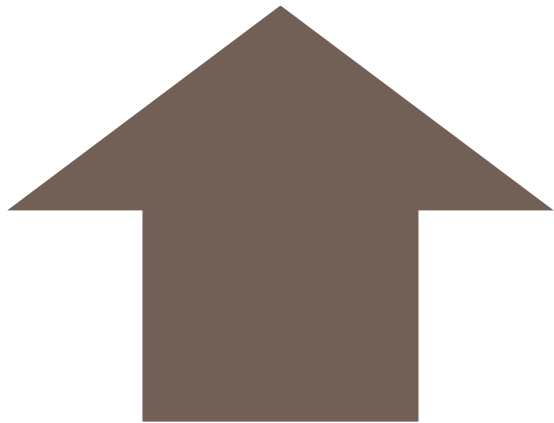


What is IL?



What is IL?

NARROW CONCEPTION OR BROAD CONCEPTION?



Teaching skills—
course success



Teaching range of
competencies—life
success

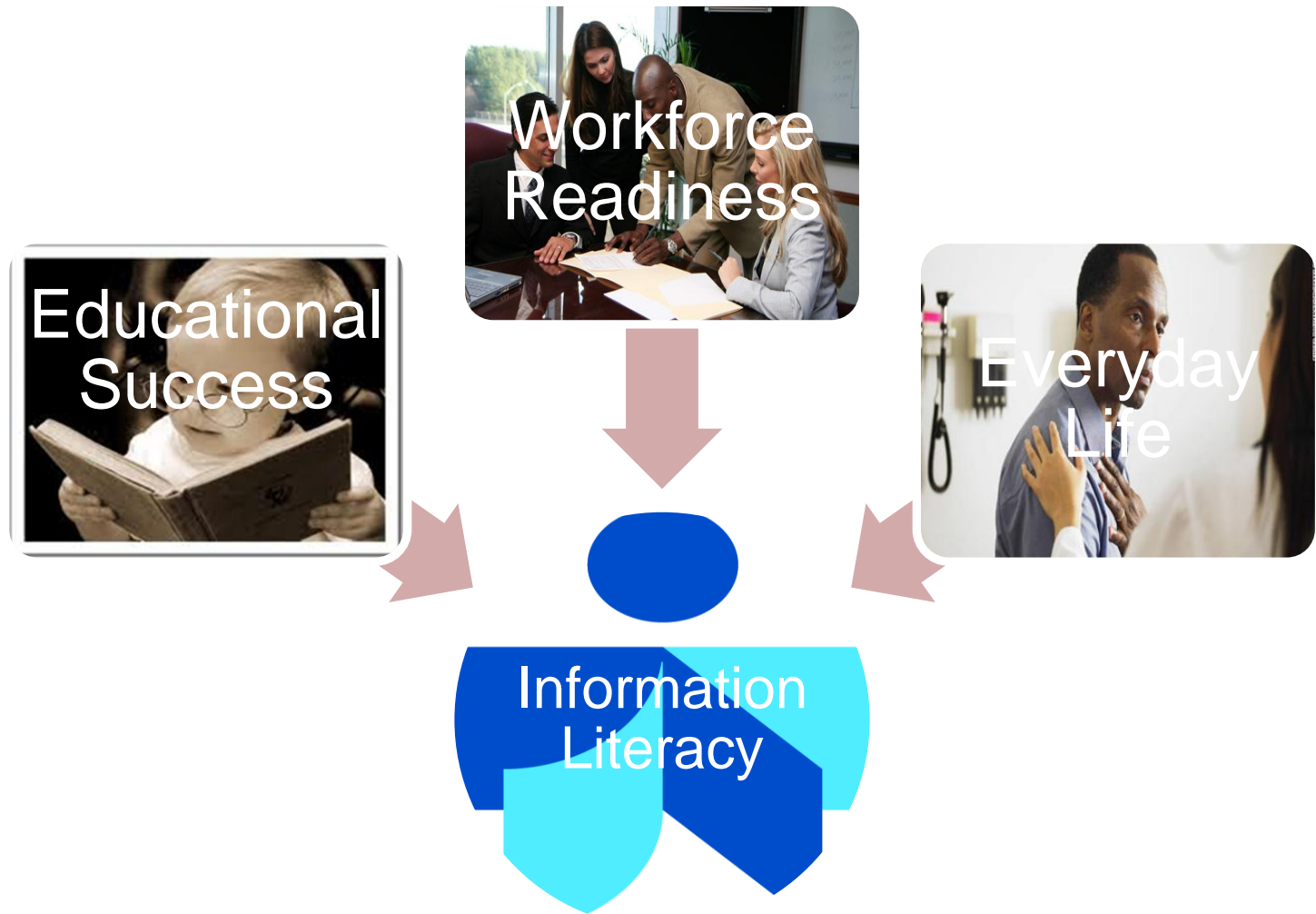
What is IL?

*Information literate people are those who **have learned how to learn**. They know how to learn because they know how knowledge is organized, how to find information, and how to use information...They can always find the information needed for any task or decision at hand.*

.

ALA 1989

A critical competency



What is information policy?



Encompasses

- Laws
- Regulations
- Doctrinal positions
- Other societal decisions



Related to

- Info Creation
- Processing
- Flows
- Access
- Use

Information policy

- Involves technology, communications, law, government, medicine, education, business, economics
- Complex and multi-dimensional
- Information policies can facilitate access to and use of information or they can restrict it

Information policy

Weiner's categories...

Information Infrastructure

- technologies that allow for access to information

Information Resources

- knowledge content
- accessibility through open access
- legal and ethical use

Information Literacy

- competencies to effectively and efficiently find, use, manage, and communicate information for specific purposes

Information policy

- Varies considerably from one nation to other, and even within nations
- May be inconsistent; over-regulated; or completely lacking
- Develop as needed or as problems arise, rather than in coordinated, cohesive manner with all major stakeholders participating

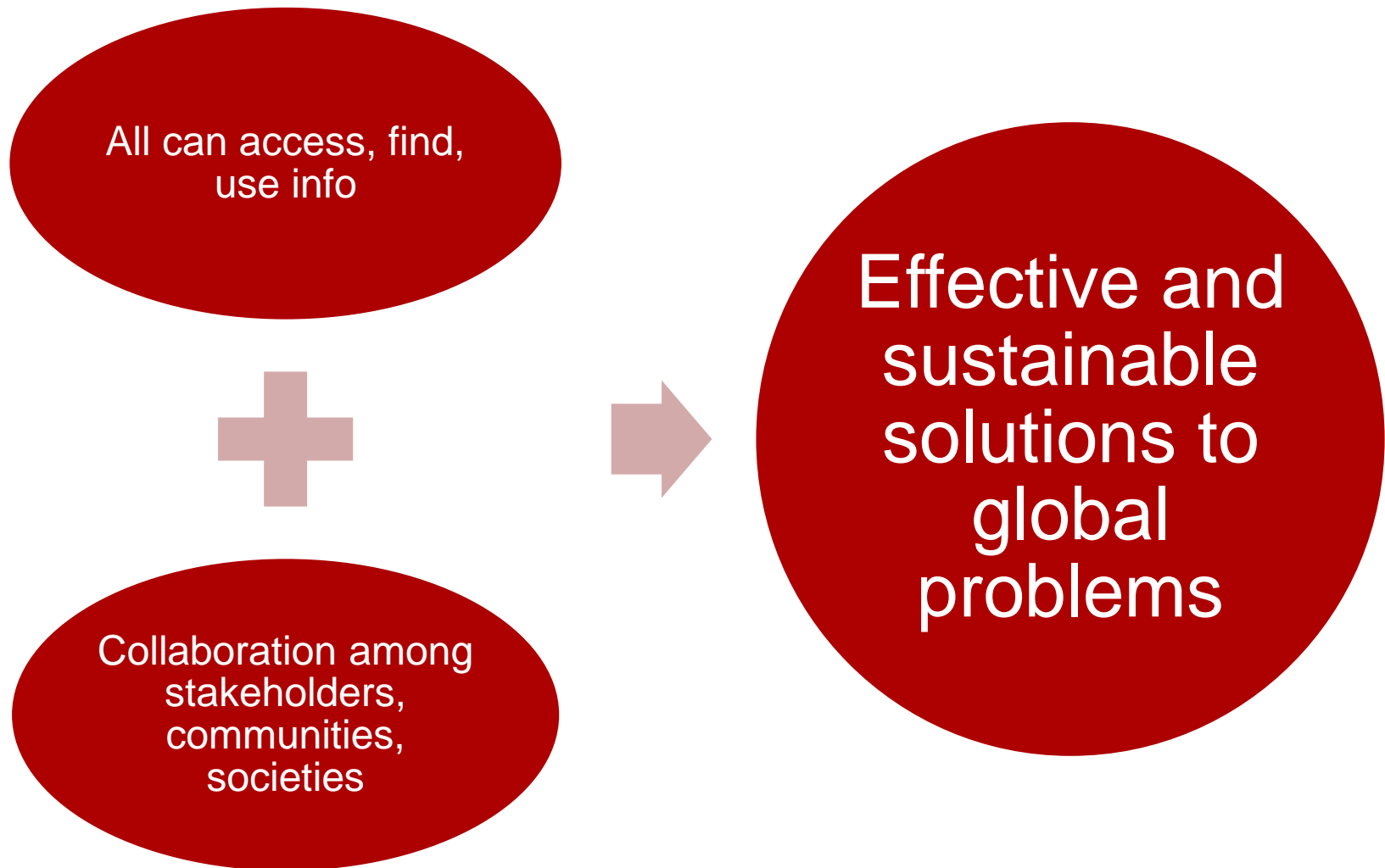
Information policy and global challenges

*How well an individual, an organization, and an entire society can harness, access, share, and make use of available information will ultimately decide their ability to **generate economic growth** and to **enhance the quality of life** for all.*

Gwang-Jo Kim

Director of UNESCO Bangkok (Karan, 2011)

Information policy and global challenges



Information policy and global challenges

Inequity in access to information and inadequate training in how to use information worldwide **hampers the collective problem-solving that could lead to dynamic, innovative results.**

Weiner 2013

Information policy and global challenges



Information policy and global challenges



Information policy and global challenges

Teach to the needs and challenges of the 21st century?



International IL policy

Many issues...

- Lack of recognition of relevance of info in development
- ICT is not enough! Does not ensure that people can effectively find and use information
- Limited capacities, resources, and infrastructure
- Restricted access to information
 - Restrictions on access to info in some locations and sectors
 - Limited info in the public domain

International IL policy

What are the issues?

- Better organization for existing resources needed
 - [DataBib](#)
- Insufficient libraries and databases of industrial, scientific and statistical information
- Opinions on who should be responsible for information literacy vary: Govt? Education? Workplace? Personal responsibility?

International IL policy

What are the issues?

- Need for respect for cultural and linguistic diversity
 - English-speakers have access to more info in most fields
- Lack of awareness of long-term preservation of info
- Lack of cross-sector and interdisciplinary stakeholder collaboration
- Changes of personnel in policymaking positions

International IL policy

- NGOs have long history of developing **recommendations** related to information policy
- Most countries do not have a coordinated, well-planned strategy involving multiple stakeholders, prioritization, and sufficient funding to address ICT, creation of relevant information resources, or IL

International IL policy

A sampling...USA



- No central coordinating body for info policy
- Different organizations, agencies, states create policies that can be incompatible, redundant, or conflicting
- Many educational institutions and accrediting organizations include IL as a standard

International IL policy

A sampling...USA

- Information Literacy Proclamation Project
 - Encourage IL advocates in each state and territory to request proclamation from governor on October as IL Month
 - Recognize IL as societal issue, not just library or school issue
 - Increase visibility of IL outside of libraries
 - Give policymakers notice about emerging issue



International IL policy

A sampling...USA

The ability to seek, find, and decipher information can be applied to countless life decisions, whether financial, medical, educational, or technical.

Obama 2009



International IL policy

A sampling...Wales



- Information Literacy Framework for Wales
 - Unified approach to embedding IL in education and training
 - U.K. Seven Pillars model: identify, plan, scope, gather, evaluate, manage, present
 - Mapped IL to national curriculum
 - Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales—throughout life

International IL policy

A sampling...Africa



- Francophone Africa, ICT and digitization not well developed, so IL training covers the use of print resources.
- No national info policy, but govt recognizes importance for problem-solving and economic development

International IL policy

A sampling...Latin America



- Postsecondary institutions, though not usually part of curriculum
- Little IL activity in schools and none in public libraries or the private sector

International IL policy

A sampling...Europe

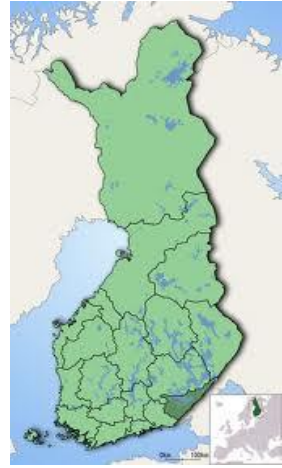


- [European Network on IL](#) posts links to policy info for countries
- U.K. incorporated info policy functions into Cabinet Office
- Departments address developing citizens' skills, promoting media literacy, and libraries, museums, and broadcasting

International IL policy

A sampling...Finland

- Leading knowledge-based economy since 1990s
- Occurred because of strong educational system and institutions for formation of national consensus
- Leaders attended programs in economic policy management and national strategy issues-helped to conceptualize and implement change
- PM chaired Information Society Council that included key representatives of public administration, private sector enterprises, interest groups, and organizations



Addressing the issues...

- Think about what you can do...
- Professionally, societally, personally



Addressing the issues...

- Education policy
 - Consider education a progressive continuum through life rather than as segmented courses, modules, learning outcomes to be mastered and forgotten
 - Include expectation of IL in teacher education, for teachers-in-training, for teachers-of-teachers, students, throughout lifespan

Addressing the issues...

- Communicate importance of IL to stakeholders
- Work with communities
- Need stories of how IL affects decisions and problem-solving, lack of IL hinders it

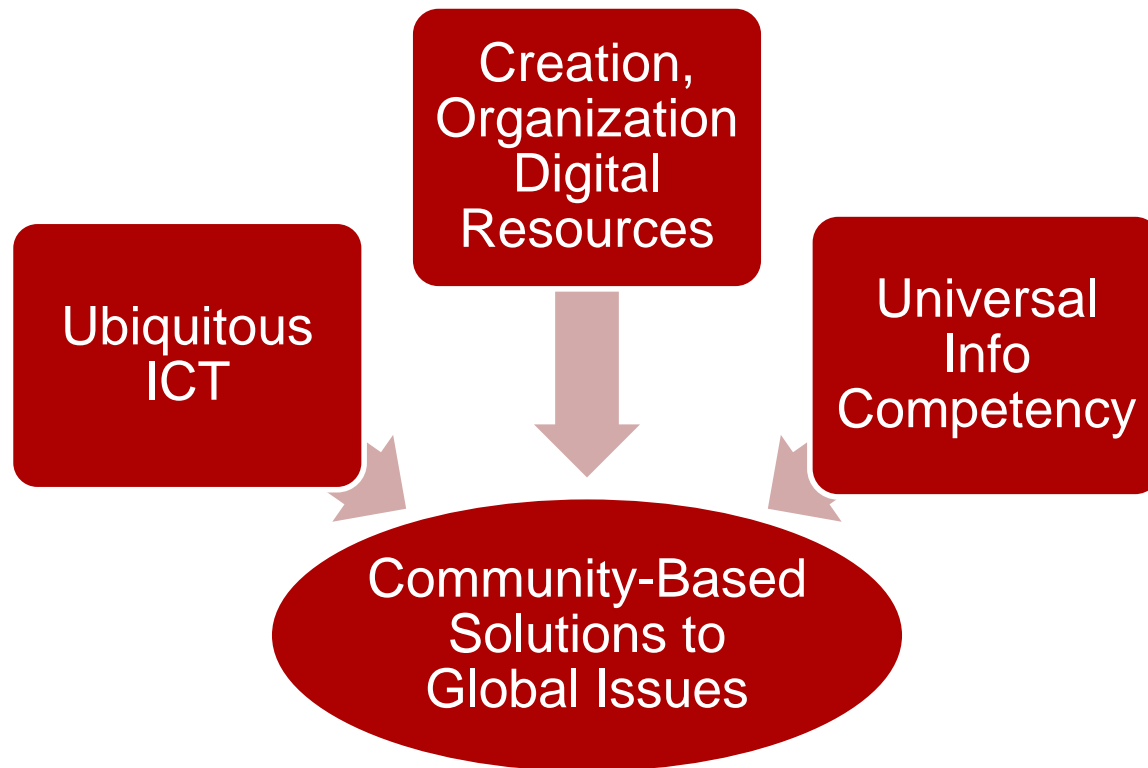
Addressing the issues...

- Need data on the cost of **lack** of IL
 - Standard of living related to financial resources + financial literacy
 - Lower health literacy = difficulty controlling chronic illnesses, less likely to participate in disease prevention programs, more likely to be hospitalized, greater mortality

In conclusion...mixed success

Conference theme:

Emerging Priorities for Scientific Information, Food Security



In conclusion...concerted effort needed

- What are the emerging priorities for scientific information?
 - Creation and organization of digital resources
 - Information literacy—how to find and use **information** (in all of its forms) for a specific purpose
- What can you influence your professional organizations to do?
- How can you influence your communities, societies, governments?

Thank you!

Questions and comments...

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